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A History of Antisemitism in Canada by Ira Robinson (review)

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Robinson, Ira. **A history of antisemitism in Canada.** Wilfrid Laurier, 2015. 287p bibl index
ISBN 9781771121668 pbk, \$34.95; ISBN 9781771121682 ebook, contact publisher for price.

Robinson's accessible and detailed social, religious, academic, and political analysis uses ample endnoted sources to explore Canadian anti-Semitism from its pre-colonial origins in France and England through the present day. Organized into four sections, the book's ten chapters address the historical background of Canadian anti-Semitism, the period from the mid-1700s through 1914, WW I through the end of WW II, and post-WW II. Robinson (chair and director of the Concordia Institute for Jewish Studies, Concordia Univ., Montreal) effectively analyzes rhetoric and policy to dissect intent, quoting the Heritage Front website, for example: "Remember to say 'Zionists,' 'bankers,' or 'Israel Firsters' instead of 'Jews' when making public speeches...." The only clear flaw in the book occurs in a strange equation of Nazi and communist anti-Semitic underpinnings in chapter 6, but the author quickly relates those movements to Canadian legal and social anti-Semitism. Throughout, his treatment of French Canada explores differences of degree and expression in anti-Semitism in that region, and the book's strongest sections deal with the period from 1914 to the present, especially considerations of Canadian responses to the rise of fascism and to the modern anti-Semitic facets of Holocaust denial and anti-Zionism.

--A. Lieberman Colgan, West Chester University of Pennsylvania

Summing Up: Recommended. All levels/libraries.